



# MALDIVES

[Check against delivery]

**Statement by**  
**Dr. Ibrahim Zuhuree**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations**  
**at the Fifty-Sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development**  
10-14 April 2023

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by extending my congratulations to you, Mr. Chair, and the Bureau for providing exceptional leadership during the 56th session of the Commission on Population and Development. Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretary General for presenting insightful reports for consideration during this session.

Mr. Chair,

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Cuba, on behalf of the G77 and China. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious undertaking, especially for SIDS like the Maldives. Despite facing numerous challenges, including the dispersion of human resources, and resource mobilization hurdles, we have made notable strides towards realizing the sustainable development goals, particularly in relation to Goal 4.

Education is one of the most powerful predictors of development, and we are convinced that education empowers, enabling them greater autonomy in decision-making and more power to act, even where gender norms are restrictive. Bearing this in mind and treating the Programme of Action of the ICPD as a guiding principle, we will continue to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4, by 2030.



---

Mr. Chair,

While the Maldives is on track to achieve SDG 4, our development continues to face multiple challenges. The inherent constraints imposed by distant and small, dispersed populations greatly increase the associated costs and adversely affect the provision of educational services. To address this issue, among various others, President Solih launched the Raajje Transport Link last year, a public ferry network connecting all inhabited islands. Phase 1 of this project has completed connecting the northern most atolls and this transportation system has facilitated the establishment of a reliable and scheduled transportation network, thereby improving access to essential services such as education.

Many of the SDG goals are enshrined into law today. Services such as healthcare, education, sanitation, water, and a safe, clean environment, are all mandated by the Constitution to all citizens. The challenge, however, is providing these services for all equally and equitably across the



---

with a view to accelerating progress towards achieving goals and targets around education, whilst looking forward to positively engaging in our planning process.